(NGOs) to promote and set up family type bio-gas plants in different States since 1993-94 .under the Central Sector Scheme-National Project on Bio-gas Development (NPBD). All India Women's Conference has been allocated a target of 1200 family type bio-gas plants, out of a national target of 1.33 lakh plants for 1998-99. In turn, All India Women's Conference has sub-allocated the target to non-governmental organisations working in eight States; namely, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(c) All Indian Women's Conference (AIWC) implemented National Project on Bio-gas Development (NPBD) in the State of Gujarat in the year 1993-94 only and achieved 50 bio-gas plants in district Vadodara and one plant in district Ahmedabad. During 1997-98, while All Indian Women's Conference (AIWC) has not set up any bio-gas plant in Gujarat, the State Government Khadi and Vilalge Industrirs Commission and National Dairy Development Board have set up a total of about 12790 plants.

Computation of Pension for Government Employees Retiring between January to September, 1996

594. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether for Government employees who retired between January to September, 1966 the computation of pension on 10 months average is adversely affecting them as the basic pay and DA on the old rate for the period before 1st January, 1996 is considered without giving them any fitment weightage for the pay in the pre-revised scale;

(b) whether in some cases, the pension entitlement for the category is less by Rs. 2000—2500 per month in comparison to those who retired in October, 1997 and afterwards in the equivalent grade; and

(c) if so, what remedial action Government propose to redress their grievances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE (SHRI KADAMBUR MR. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (c) In accordance with the provisions contained in Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972 for the purpose of computation of pension, emoluments drawn by a Government servant during the last 10 months of his service are taken into account. Accordingly in the case of Government employees who retired within 10 months from the date of introduction of new scales of pay i.e. 1.1.1996, emoluments drawn in the pre-revised scales of pay for the period to 1.1.1996 and pay in the revised scales for the remaining period have been taken into account. In the case of Government servants retiring within 10 months from the date of introduction of new pay scales, in addition to basic pay dearness allowance as well as IR (I) and IR (II) drawn during the period prior to 1.1.1996 have also been treated as emoluments for the purpose of computation of- pension. Howevet the revised pension sanctioned to post-1996 pensioners after the introduction of the new scales is in no case less then the original basic pension sanctioned to them based on the pre-revised scales. In some cases the pension so fixed has resulted in less pension than their counterparts who retired by pre-1996. However, those employees who have retired or will be retiring between 1.1.1996 and 31.12.1997 have an option to retain the pre-revised scales of pay and have their pension and death-cum-retirement gratuity calculated under the rules in force immediately before coming into the effect of these orders. The pension and death-cum-retirement gratuity in such cases will be regulated in accordance with the orders in force prior to 1.1.1996.

The Post-1996 retirees also receive 40% instead of 33% of commutation amount, enhanced gratuity upto Rs. 3.5 lakhs based on the last pay drawn and Dearness Allowance admissible thereon and 300 days leave encashment in the new scale as against 240 days in the old scale drawn by pre-1996 retirees and as such full terminal benefits of pre and post 1996 retirees cannot be compared. However, the grievances of some of the employees affected are likely to be redressed with the decision taken by the Government to step up pension to 50% of the minimum revised pay as on 1.1.1996.

Recommendation of Pay Commission Regarding DA to Pensioners

595. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Fifth Pay Commission rcecommended that the Dearness Relief of the Pensioners should be merged with their pensions periodically whenever the Dearness Allowance of the serving employees is merged with their basic pay;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this recommendation was not accepted by Government? and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and whether Government would reconsider the matter favourably so as to give some relief to the pensioners in the scenario of continuously rising prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

(c) The merger of DR with pension has been correlated with the merger of DA with pay. No proposal for such a merger is under consideration of the Government.

Strength of Senior Officers

596. SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the total number of Deputy Secretaries, Joint Secretaries, Additional Secretaries and Secretaries working in Government of India and Commissions set up by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): A statement containing the desired information is enclosed.

Statement

Number of Deputy Secretaries/Directors, Joint Secretaries, Additional Secretaries and Secretaries working in Government of India and Commissions set up by the Central Government as per the appointments made through the Department of Personnel and Training, as on the 1st November, 1998

Sl. No	Level	Total Number
1.	Deputy Secretaries/Directors	858
2.	Joint Secretaries	416
3.	Additional Secretaries	102
4.	Secretaries	135

Decision regarding pension to pre-1996 retirees

597. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government in last week of October, 1998 have decided to revise the pension of Central Government retirees before 1st January, 1996 as per formula recommended by the 5th Pay Commission;